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1989/06/01

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(25)
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ORIGIN EAP-BE

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ORIGIN OFFICE EM-BS
INFO TC-01 P-01 RA-01 UN-01 EAP-BS /016 A3 .00K

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 IHR-07 SS-00 CIAE-00 D00E-00 N-01
NSCE-00 NSAE-00 NA-09 L-03 TRSE-00 PH-10 AIT-02
PA-02 OMN-01 SIL-01 TXRE-00 USIE-00 SP-02 SHP-01
PRS-01 P-02 T-01 7613 R

CREATED BY: EAP/CH: JBADEB
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R:WHITE EAP/RA/TC:DSPelman
AITS:OLAUX

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O R 012151Z JUN 89
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
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INFO ANCONSL SHANGHAI
ANCONSL SHENYANG
ANCONSL HONG KONG
ANCONSL GUANGZHOU
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AIT TAIPEI FROM AIT WASHDC 8808

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BEIJING ALSO PASS TO CHENGDU

E.O. 12356: R/A
TAGS: PEUW, PREL, CH, US
SUBJECT: SENATE PASSES RESOLUTION ON CHINA

1. ON MAY 21, THE SENATE PASSED A SENSE OF THE CONGRESS RESOLUTION EXPRESSING ADMIRATION FOR CHINESE PROTESTERS AND CALLING ON THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO COMMUNICATE TO PRC LEADERS THE "SERIOUS DAMAGE" WHICH WOULD BE DONE TO US-PRC RELATIONS SHOULD VIOLENCE OR REPRESSION BE DIRECTED AT PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATORS. THE RESOLUTION PICKS UP MUCH OF THE LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN H CON RES WHICH PASSED THE HOUSE MAY 24, BUT ALSO CONTAINS SOME NEW ELEMENTS AND SOME FROM THE SFRC-APPROVED RESOLUTION ON THE SAME SUBJECT. FOLLOWING IN PARAGRAPH 2 IS THE TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION.

2. WHEREAS SINCE MID-APRIL MILLIONS OF CHINESE CITIZENS HAVE ENGAGED IN PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS IN BEIJING AND OTHER CHINESE CITIES, CALLING FOR GREATER DEMOCRACY, FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION, AND FOR A GOVERNMENT WHICH IS RESPONSIVE TO THE PEOPLE AND FREE OF CORRUPTION;

WHEREAS THE DEMONSTRATORS, IN CARRYING OUT THEIR PEACEFUL PROTEST, HAVE DISPLAYED EXTRAORDINARY COURAGE, DISCIPLINE, AND RESTRAINT;

WHEREAS SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS REFLECT A BROAD-BASED FEELING ON THE PART OF MANY CHINESE THAT THE POLITICAL REFORMS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN CHINA HAVE NOT KEPT PACE WITH THE PROGRESS OF ECONOMIC REFORM, AND THE CURRENT DIFFICULTIES IN ECONOMIC REFORM WILL ONLY HEIGHTEN THE POPULAR DESIRE FOR POLITICAL REFORM;

WHEREAS THE EXTRAORDINARY DEMONSTRATIONS IN CHINA CONSTITUTE ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENTS FOR DEMOCRACY IN MODERN HISTORY;

WHEREAS ON MAY 20, 1989, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT DECLARED MARTIAL LAW IN EIGHT DISTRICTS OF BEIJING, AND IMPOSED

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EDICTS FORBIDDING MARCHES, STRIKES, CLASS BOYCOTTS, DISTRIBUTION OF PAMPHLETS, SPREADING RUMORS, ATTACKS ON LEADERS, AND ANY OTHER "DESTRUCTIVE ACTIONS;"

WHEREAS ON MAY 20, 1989, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ORDERED UNITS OF THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY INTO BEIJING IN ORDER TO RESTORE ORDER;

WHEREAS MILITARY UNITS ATTEMPTING TO ENTER THE CENTER OF BEIJING HAVE BEEN MET BY CROWDS OF PRO-DEMOCRACY DEMONSTRATORS AND HAVE CHOSEN TO WITHDRAW OR REMAIN IN PLACE RATHER THAN USE FORCE TO MOVE FORWARD;

WHEREAS IN APRIL 1989, THE AUTHORITIES OF THE SHANGHAI MUNICIPALITY DISMISSED THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE WORLD ECONOMIC HERALD, ONE OF CHINA'S MORE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER;

WHEREAS THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES HAVE ORDERED FOREIGN JOURNALISTS NOT TO GO TO TIANNANMEN SQUARE, HAVE STOPPED INTERNATIONAL SATELLITE NEWS TRANSMISSIONS, AND HAVE JAMMED THREE OF FIVE VOICE OF AMERICA FREQUENCIES (THE FIRST TIME THAT VOA BROADCASTS TO CHINA HAVE BEEN JAMMED SINCE THE NORMALIZATION OF US-CHINA RELATIONS IN 1979);

WHEREAS, IN THE WAKE OF DEMOCRACY MOVEMENTS IN 1978-79 AND 1986-87, THE AUTHORITIES SUBJECTED PARTICIPANTS IN THOSE MOVEMENTS TO A VARIETY OF SANCTIONS, AND SOME INDIVIDUALS INCARCERATED FOR THEIR PEACEFUL POLITICAL ACTIVITY DURING THOSE MOVEMENTS REMAIN IN PRISON;

WHEREAS AN ACCELERATION OF POLITICAL REFORM, INCLUDING GREATER PLURALISM AND RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONALLY

RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS, WILL HAVE POSITIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA, AND REPRESSION OF THE MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRACY IN CHINA WILL SERIOUSLY IMPAIR THOSE RELATIONS;

WHEREAS THE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND THE FREEDOM TO FORM INDEPENDENT TRADE UNIONS, STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATIONS ARE CURTAILED;

WHEREAS LED BY THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT UNION OF BEIJING UNIVERSITIES, THE CHINESE PEOPLE HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR DESIRE FOR DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND AN END TO CORRUPTION IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA;

WHEREAS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESIRE TO EXTEND THEIR MORAL SUPPORT TO THE STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY, LIBERTY AND JUSTICE WITHIN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

IT IS THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS THAT:

(A) THE CONGRESS LOOKS WITH ADMIRATION ON THE COURAGE WHICH CHINESE CITIZENS HAVE DEMONSTRATED IN STRIVING FOR DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL REFORM, INCLUDING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION, AND FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, AND ON THE PEACEFUL AND DISCIPLINED MANNER WITH WHICH THEY HAVE PURSUED THEIR CAUSE;

(B) THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA SHOULD TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO ESTABLISH A JUST AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY, WITH A FREE AND OPEN POLITICAL SYSTEM THAT WILL PROTECT THE ESSENTIAL HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLE LIVING WITHIN THAT COUNTRY, AND

(C) THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHOULD COMMUNICATE TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA THAT

United States Department of State
Office of FOI, Privacy, & Classification Review
Review Authority: MILLER, ROBERT
Date: 01/16/96
Case ID: 9205707

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OFFICIAL VIOLENCE OR REPRESSION DIRECTED AT THOSE WHO
WOULD PEACEFULLY DEMONSTRATE FOR DEMOCRACY, LIBERTY,
JUSTICE, AND WORKERS' RIGHTS, WILL SERIOUSLY DAMAGE
RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

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